

No. III.

P A P E R S

RESPECTING THE

NEGOCIATION

FOR A RENEWAL OF THE

East-India Company's Exclusive Trade.

PRINTED BY THE COURT OF DIRECTORS

FOR THE

INFORMATION OF THE PROPRIETORS,

No. 3.
 LIST of Papers respecting the Negotiation for
 a Renewal of the East-India Company's Exclusive
 Trade, printed by the Court of Directors for the
 Information of the Proprietors.

No. 1.
 Letter from the Chairman to the Right Honourable Henry
 Dundas, dated the 21st March, 1793.

No. 2.
 East-India Company's Exclusive Trade.
 Minute of the Committee of Correspondence dated the 21st
 March, 1793, referring to the following Papers, viz:

No. III.
 Letter from the Right Honourable Henry Dundas to the
 Chairman, on the Subject of the Company's Ships,
 (marked A)

No. IV.
 Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman (marked B)
 inclosing,
 No. V.
 A

No. 3.

**LIST of Papers respecting the Negociation for
a Renewal of the East-India Company's Exclusive
Trade, printed by the Court of Directors for the
Information of the Proprietors.**

No. I.

**Letter from the Chairman to the Right Honourable Henry
Dundas, dated the 21st March, 1793.**

No. II.

**Minute of the Committee of Correspondence, dated the 25th
March, 1793, referring to the following Papers, viz.**

No. III.

**Letter from the Right Honourable Henry Dundas to the
Chairman, on the Subject of the Company's Ships,
(marked A)**

No. IV.

**Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman (marked B)
inclosing,**

A 2

No. V.

(4)

No. V.

Letter from Lord Falmouth and the other Gentlemen interested in the Mines of Cornwall and

No. VI.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to Lord Falmouth, in reply

No. VII.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman (marked C) inclosing,

No. VIII.

Memorial from the Merchants of Exeter.

No. IX.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman (marked D) inclosing,

No. X.

Letter from the Chairman to Mr. Dundas, dated the 9th March, 1793, respecting the Southern Whale Fishery.

No. XI.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman (marked E) inclosing,

No. XII.

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No. XII.

Minutes of a Conversation between Mr. Pitt, Mr. Dundas,
and Messrs. Gregg and Frodsham, Delegates from Man-
chester.

No. XIII.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman (marked F)
inclosing,

No. XIV.

Minute of a Conversation between Mr. Pitt, Mr. Dundas,
and several Gentlemen from Manchester.

No. XV.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman (marked G)
inclosing,

No. XVI.

Letter to Mr. Dundas, from Mr. John Dunlop, Chairman
to the Manufacturers of Glasgow.

No. XVII.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman (marked H) re-
specting the Claudefine Trade from India to Europe,
and inclosing,

No. XVIII.

(6)

No. XVIII.

A Paper containing Suggestions on that Subject
dated the 25th March, 1793, on the above-mentioned

No. XIX.

Minute and Report of the Committee of Correspondence,
dated the 25th March, 1793, on the above-mentioned
Papers.

No. XX.

Continuation of the Report of the Committee of Correspondence
of the 25th of March, stating,

No. XXI.

The Memorial respecting Clandestine Trade, with the Committee's Remarks thereon.

XXII.

Appendix to the above-mentioned Memorial, being the
Inclosure mentioned in the Letter from Mr. Dundas to
the Chairman, dated the 18th March, 1793, contained
in the second printed Collection of Papers respecting the
Negociation.

No. XXIII.

(7)

No. XXXIII.

Further Minute of the Committee of Correspondence,
dated the 25th March, 1793, referring to

No. XIX.

No. XXIV.

Minute and Report of the Committee of Correspondence,
Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman, dated the 24th
March, 1793.

No. XX.

No. XXV.

Continuation of the Report of the Committee of Correspondence,
Letter from the Chairman to Mr. Dundas, dated the 25th
March, 1793.

No. XXI.

The Memorial respecting Clandestine Trade, with the Com-
mittee's Remarks thereon.

XXII.

Appendix to the above-mentioned Memorial, being the
Inclosure mentioned in the Letter from Mr. Dundas to
the Chairman, dated the 18th March, 1793, contained
in the second printed Collection of Papers respecting the
Negotiation.

No. XXIII.

No. XXXIII.

Further Minutes of the Committee of Correspondence
dated the 25th March 1793, relating to

No. XLIV.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman dated the 25th
March 1793.

No. XLV.

Letter from the Chairman to Mr. Dundas dated the 25th
March 1793.

No. I.

Letter from the Chairman to the Right Honourable Henry Dundas.

S I R,

THE Committee of Correspondence have deliberated upon the result of the conference they had the honor to hold with yourself and Mr. Pitt this morning ; but they find themselves under the necessity of reserving an opinion upon some points, until they have your sentiments in writing. I am, however, directed to suggest to you, that they do not think it would be reasonable or just for their Constituents to reduce the charge on private trade below 5 per cent. which includes every expence of landing, housing, and delivery of the goods, warehouse rent for a considerable time if demanded, and the expence of public sale.

The price of freight, as proposed, would be extremely burthen-
some, and even injudicious, in the opinion of the Committee. If they
engage ships at £20. it will cost the Company more than £22. in con-
sequence of circumstances which are not necessary to be enumerated ;
and when they proposed to accept of £22. it was with a view to faci-
litate every reasonable expectation, not only because it was less than
it cost the Company, but also because individuals pay more at Ostend
for the freight of goods to and from India. If His Majesty's Ministers
are desirous that the Company shall make a further sacrifice to the ma-
nufacturing interests, the Committee will recommend to their Consti-
tuents to accept of £20. in peace, and the proportion of increase in
times of difficulty ; but on condition that it shall be divided £8. outward
and £12. homeward. For if it were to be regulated at £5. outward,
and £15. homeward, as you have mentioned ; the whole of the tonnage in
India may remain with the Company, whilst individuals after paying
£5. per ton for their adventure outward, will bring their returns from
India in foreign ships, if a cheaper freight shall offer ; thereby fur-

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nothing substantial means for extending the clandestine trade which all parties are desirous to suppress.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

East-India House,
the 21st March, 1793.

Your most obedient and most
Humble servant,

(Signed)

F. Baring.

No. II.

Minute of the Committee of Correspondence, dated the 25th March, 1793.

At a Committee of Correspondence, 25th March, 1793.

THE Chairman laid before the Committee the following letters and papers which he received from the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, on Saturday last, viz.

(The Letters and Papers from No. III. to No. XVIII. inclusive.)

No. III.

Letter from the Right Honourable Henry Dundas to the Chairman, on the Subject of the Company's Ships, (marked A.)

S I R,

IN the course of our different interviews, there has been no occasion for us to discuss the business of the shipping interest as a

separate question. At the same time, in all my interviews with the different classes of persons who have brought forward pretensions connected with the arrangements respecting India now in agitation, I have uniformly discountenanced every suggestion which tended to set aside the present valuable capital employed in the shipping service of the East-India Company. It is obvious that the controversies which have taken place on this subject, cannot be matter of Parliamentary arrangement, but must be left to the discretion of those who have the management of the commercial interests of the Company. At the same time I have no hesitation in declaring my opinion, that as on the one hand the freight should be settled once for all, on a fair and equitable footing, so on the other hand it ought to be understood, that the freight so settled, persons whose property is embarked in this concern, should not be kept in constant agitation by the discussions which are brought forward by the tenders made in the name of the different speculators in this business.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Whitehall,
March 23, 1795.

Your most obedient humble servant,

HENRY DUNDAS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, AND THE RIGHT HONORABLE HENRY DUNDAS, ON 21st MARCH 1795.

No. IV.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman, (marked B.)

SIR,

I formerly communicated to you the letter I had received from Lord Falmouth and the other Gentlemen interested in the Mines of Cornwall. I herewith transmit to you a copy of a letter which I have received from them, together with the answer which I have returned.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Whitehall,
March 23, 1795.

Your most obedient humble servant,

HENRY DUNDAS.

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Letter from Lord Palgrave and the other Gentlemen interested in the Affairs of Cornwall, to Mr. Dundas.

S I R,

IN compliance with the desire you lately expressed of having the claims of the county of Cornwall reduced to writing, previous to the discussion of the question of the renewal of the East-India Company's Charter, we, as a Committee acting in behalf of that County, submit what follows to your consideration.

Upon a perusal of the papers respecting the negotiation for a renewal of the East-India Company's exclusive trade, printed by the Court of Directors, we find, that according to your opinion, the exclusive Charter of the Company ought to be renewed, subject to certain regulations in favor of the export of British and Irish manufactures and produce, which we conclude are meant to have an immediate effect, if passed, in all the countries to which that charter may extend, China alone excepted.

A review of the principles of these regulations induces us to request, as Proprietors of British produce, that an option may be given us either of selling such produce to the East-India Company, if they are disposed to purchase, or of exporting the same on freight, in their ships, or ships hired by them, with liberty to sell on our own account in the markets of India; and that we may have a farther option in respect to our mode of remittance to this country, and be at liberty to effect that object, either by payment of the sale amount into such of the Company's treasuries as may be convenient for that purpose, to be repaid by them in bills on the Court of Directors, granted at the current rate of exchange then subsisting; or by purchasing raw materials, the produce of the country to be imported on our own account, on freight, into this kingdom, in the Company's ships, or in the ships hired by them. We are farther induced to request, in conformity with the papers above alluded to, that such regulations may be adopted as will secure to us a certainty that such freight both out and home, if necessary, shall be furnished us, through the medium of the Company, at a cheaper rate than we ourselves could procure it.

With respect to China, we observe, that the papers are silent as to any immediate regulation in favour of British manufactures or produce. The paper from the Committee of Correspondence addressed to the Right Honourable William Pitt, and to you, Sir, proposes only

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an eventual and uncertain regulation of the Company's monopoly in those markets. The regular and certain access to China is so absolutely necessary to the existence of the trade of Cornwall, that we should materially fail in discharging the duty we owe to those for whom we act, if we did not put in our claim to an immediate and effectual security for a constant annual export to that country, proportioned to our necessities and their consumption, on the same principles which we conclude have been deemed reasonable in the case of India.

In a late conference you suggested that some difficulties peculiar to the import of the produce of China existed, and which rendered the general principle of security adopted as to India, inapplicable to that country. On this point, in deference to your opinion, we reserve ourselves: but we, at the same time, request that we may, under the new charter, (if granted) have a full power, on the refusal of the East-India Company to purchase our produce at a price to be named by us, to export the same on freight to China, reduced as in the case of exports to India, with a mode of remittance arising from the payment of the sale amount into the Company's treasuries, there to be repaid by bills from them on the Court of Directors, at the current rate of exchange. We lastly request, that full and detailed regulations may be contained in the charter, (if granted) to secure to us the practical enjoyment of all the privileges above specified, whether relating to India or China, supposing that, on examination, they should be thought such as may, consistent with policy and justice, be granted. We shall be obliged by as early an answer as shall suit your convenience: and have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

FABMOUTH, Chairman,

J. ST. AUBYN,

WM. LEMON,

F. BASSETT,

CHRIS. HAWKINS,

F. GREGOR,

PHIL. RASHLEIGH.

No. VI.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to Lord Falkmouth.

My Lord,

IMMEDIATELY on the receipt of the letter from your Lordship and the Gentlemen of the Committee from the county of Cornwall, I communicated the contents to the Chairman of the East-India Company; and I enclose for your Lordship's perusal the letter I received from him containing his observations on the propositions conveyed to me by your Lordship. Mr. Pitt and I have since had many interviews with the Directors of the East-India Company on the subject; and they are willing to bind themselves annually to export 800 tons of tin, paying for it a price of £.72 per ton. But when the Company come under this obligation on a supposition that they will find a sale for it in their Indian and Chinese markets, it would be clearly unjust to load them with the continuance of such obligation, if by experience it should be found that the sale does not answer. With this view, it is proposed, that the East-India Company should be relieved of this obligation to the amount of 400, or any lesser number of tons, if, at the end of each successive four years, they shall be able to prove, to the satisfaction of the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, that their markets in India and China do not admit of a sale to the whole amount of the stipulated quantity. It does not appear reasonable nor consistent with the general interests of the Company, to urge them to do more than already stated; but I am perfectly satisfied that what they have agreed to do, joined to the other outlets for the manufactures and produce of Great Britain, which the arrangements to take place on the renewal of the charter, will provide for, must prove abundantly beneficial to those interests which your Lordship and the Gentlemen of the Committee have been deputed to support.

I have the honor to be,

Whitehall,
22d March, 1793.

MY LORD, &c. &c.

HENRY DUNDAS.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman, (marked C.)

S I R,

I SEND you a memorial which has been laid before me by some Gentlemen interested in the manufactures of the town of Exeter: on the first view of the case, it does certainly appear to resolve into a complaint, that the East-India Company have been more liberal in their exports of long-ells than is consistent with the interest of the manufacturers of Exeter; but it is impossible to bring forward that grievance, or the remedy for it, as a matter of Parliamentary arrangement. If, in the article of their dying manufacture, the East-India Company can give the manufacturers of Exeter any participation upon equal terms, I should think it worthy the liberality of the Company to do so, that no branch of the British industry may appear to suffer even from the meritorious exertions of the East-India Company.

I have the honour to be,

S I R,

Your obedient humble Servant,

Whitehall,

23d March 1793.

HENRY DUNDAS.

Francis Baring, Esq.

No. VIII.

Memorial from the Merchants of Exeter.

Exeter, March 9, 1793.

A RENEWAL of the India charter appearing to be in contemplation, and the principle of introducing regulations which may effectually protect and encourage the manufacturing and commercial interests of this

this country, pervading every part of your printed communications with the Company on this subject: We, the Merchants of Exeter, are encouraged to solicit your attention to the state of our commerce, deeply involved in the consideration, and which, far from being benefited by the connections beyond the Cape of Good Hope, feels material injury from the exports to China, and we apprehend will ultimately be ruined, if the present system of supply continue to prevail.

Among the exports of this city, the article of long ells is by far the most important. The labour arising from the various processes of preparing this article, which is consumed under different denominations throughout Europe, forms the industry and support of this place. You are well aware, Sir, that the Company's annual exports of the same article have increased within a few years from sixty to near four hundred thousand pounds; and the reports of the Committee of Directors afford reason to believe a progressive increase of demand will, in a few years, nearly double that supply.

An excessive advance of price has necessarily attended this unusual demand for long ells, which bears a nearer proportion to the sum of our European exports of the article. This advance which operates as a bounty on the rising manufactories of neighbouring states, has affected our trade, and creates serious alarm. The European trade is diminishing whilst that with China augments. This exchange of one market for another would not become a subject of complaint were both equally accessible; but in the present instance we are losing the old markets, yet are excluded from the new.

The long ells for China being sent to the Company in the raw state, afford no employment to the industry of Exeter; a circumstance so much the more mortifying, as a variety of causes so favour us in the preparation of woollens that we are enabled to save the Company 10 per cent. on the first cost of any part of their long ells, the purchases and preparation of which may be entrusted to our care.

The grievances we already feel, and the still greater we apprehend from the present system of the China trade, impel us to seek redress; and we have deputed Mr. Samuel Banfill, Mr. John Cole, and Mr. John Mitford, Merchants of this place, to submit our case to your consideration, and to make such further explanations as shall be deemed necessary.

We trust that under your patronage a plan may be adopted for admitting us to a participation of the export trade to China, or of securing

curing such arrangements with the Company as may be mutually beneficial.

We have the honour to be, with profound respect,

S I R,

Your most obedient and very humble Servants,

C. WEYMOUTH BROTHERS,
JOHN CRESWELL and Co.
HENRY WAYMOUTH and Co. &c.

The Right Hon. Henry Dundas,
Secretary of State, &c.

No. IX.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman, [marked D].

S I R,

IN our different conversations, we have had no full discussion on the subject of the adventurers in the South Whale Fishery; in the accompanying letter which I had from you some time ago, you proposed consulting others, who you supposed were conversant in the business.

It would be proper for me to know what the present condition of the South Whale Fishery is, in respect to the East-India Company, and what should be finally said to them.

I have the honour to be,

S I R,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

Whitehall,
23d March, 1793.

HENRY DUNDAS.

Francis Baring, Esq.

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No. X.

Letter from the Chairman to Mr. Dundas, respecting the Southern Whale Fishery.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE delayed for a few days an answer to your question relative to the adventurers in the South Whale Fishery, for the purpose of giving the subject full consideration, and of consulting with others who understand it much better than I can pretend to do. The result is, that I cannot devise any expedient for placing those adventurers in a better situation than they enjoy at present. It is very desirable to afford every encouragement for the purpose of extending Fisheries, and no man can entertain a more decided opinion on that subject than myself; but the persons who follow that pursuit are not the most regular in their conduct, of which we have lately had a most shocking instance, that I am satisfied the privilege which they enjoy, at present, under the permission of the Company, cannot be extended without extreme danger to India, and to the trade with China. One material argument in favour of the description of ships which the Company employ is, that they are few in number, and under their immediate controul; the same argument applies generally to the Company's monopoly, but if the Whalers are permitted to extend their range, to approach or to visit the coasts of India or China, the system which prevails for the protection of the empire in India, and of the trade with China, falls to the ground. I conceive moreover, that it will be necessary to prevent all communication between Whalers and Rovers with the serpent we are nursing at Botany Bay, which, in my humble opinion, is more deserving the serious attention of His Majesty's Ministers.

I am, most respectfully,

DEAR SIR,

Your most obedient faithful humble servant,

Devonshire Square,
9th March, 1793.

F. BARING.

The Right Honourable Henry Dundas.

No. XI.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman (marked E.)

SIR,

THE enclosed is a copy of the minute of the last conversation Mr. Pitt and I had with Messrs. Gregg and Frodsham on the subject of their delegation from Manchester.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

Whitehall,

23d March, 1793.

HENRY DUNDAS,

Francis Baring, Esq.

No. XII.

Summary of a Conversation between Mr. Pitt, Mr. Dundas, and Messrs. Gregg and Frodsham, Delegates from Manchester.

PROPOSITIONS STATED BY THE

ANSWERS.

DELEGATES.

First. That the freight outwards do not exceed £4. per ton, and homeward £12. per ton.

First. We cannot urge the Court of Directors, at present, to go lower than £5. for the export, and £15. for the import. If by lessening the size of the ships employed in this particular business, or by any other arrangements, the freight can be reduced (due attention being paid to all circumstances connected with that subject) the Court of Directors will be ready to adopt them. But we think it right to observe, that

Second.

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PROPOSITIONS.

ANSWERS.

Second. That the manufacturers of this kingdom be exempt from all import and export duties in India.

Third. That all goods of private trade, particularly those for home consumption, be delivered up to the owners as soon after being landed on being demanded, the freight and duties being first paid

Fourth.

most of the information which the manufacturers have stated on this subject, is rather incorrect, even upon its own principles, and entirely excludes all those collateral considerations connected with a view of the nature and utility of the shipping employed by the East-India Company in the conduct of their trade.

Second. The East-India Company have no desire to keep the import or export duties in India, as an article of revenue; but in defraying the expence of pilotage and such other necessary charges, the East-India Company must be at some expence, which is with great propriety defrayed from such port duties as here referred to. If the present amount of them exceeds what is necessary for the purposes referred to, no objection exists to the lowering the amount of them to that standard.

Third. We understand this suggestion to relate chiefly to the raw materials proposed to be brought home in return for the exports from Great Britain, and by no means to refer to such material articles of commerce as those exposed at the sales of the East-India Company. The Company do not seem to think that they shall have any difficulty in arranging this matter to mutual satisfaction, and we have earnestly recom-

PROPOSITIONS.

ANSWERS.

Fourth. That the China market be open for the import of every species of British manufacture from the other ports in India, in case it be not permitted to trade direct thither.

recommended it to their liberal consideration.

Fourth. The trade between India and China cannot, from the nature of it, be carried on any other way than by the ships employed in the country trade, and those engaged in that commerce are at liberty to trade in any article they can find in India, and of course in any article of British export which they may find there, and which they can with advantage add to the assortment of their trade.

No. XIII.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman, (marked F.)

SIR,

I SEND you a minute of the conversation which Mr. Pitt and I have had with the Gentlemen from Manchester, interested in the English calico and muslin manufactures.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Whitehall,
23d March, 1793.

Francis Baring, Esq.

HENRY DUNDAS.

No. XIV.

Minute of a Conversation between Mr. Pitt, Mr. Dundas, and several Gentlemen from Manchester.

AT a meeting in Downing-Street, 20th March, 1793, on the subject of India affairs, so far as relates to the English callico and muslin manufactures.

Present,

The Right Honourable WILLIAM PITT,
The Right Honourable HENRY DUNDAS,
Colonel STANLEY,
Mr. BLACKBURN,
Mr. PEEL,
Mr. THACKERY,
Mr. OLDENOW,
Mr. SIMPSON,
Mr. PILKINGTON,

Delegates.

The following propositions were made by the Delegates and answers given by His Majesty's Ministers.

PROPOSITIONS.

First. That the East-India Company shall not, in future, expose to sale any cotton goods manufactured in the East-Indies, except for exportation.

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ANSWERS.

First. This is a point in which the East-India Company seem so little concerned, that it is not one which, with a view to them, can create any difficulty; but Mr. Pitt and Mr. Dundas are of opinion, that the manufactures of Great Britain are infinitely more in danger of suffering from a total prohibition than they would be by a legitimate trade, with a duty sufficiently high for the protection of the manufactures of Great Britain; at the same time, if the manufacturers, on further consideration,

PROPOSITIONS.

ANSWERS.

Second. That the East-India Company shall bring over a given quantity of fine cotton wool, and other raw materials, for the supply of the British manufactures.

ation, still adhere to their request, no further objection shall be made to it, trusting that if experience shall prove to them that they are in an error, they will have no difficulty in confessing it, and returning to the other system.

The manufacturers are desired in the mean time to suggest the most effectual regulations which they think practicable for preventing smuggling in this article.

Second. It shall be the business of Government and the East-India Company, by every possible means, to promote the importation of every species of raw material from India; but in addition to this, as it is intended to make it part of the arrangement, that the Company shall appropriate annually a certain quantity of tonnage for the purpose of enabling individuals to bring home such articles as they may think fit. His Majesty's subjects will thereby be enabled, if they think it advantageous, to procure for themselves a supply of raw materials: but if this mode of importation shall be resorted to, it must be done through the agency of free merchants appointed, as at present, by the East-India Company, and subject to the controul of the Government in India; these agents to have as free access to all markets of India, as the Company

Third-

PROPOSITIONS.

Third. That the East-India Company shall not expose to sale in any one year, a greater quantity of manufactured cotton goods of India, than they have done on an average of ten years past.

ANSWERS.

Company themselves, for the purchase of such articles.

Third. Limiting the Company's imports would only divert the trade into foreign channels, at the expense of the commerce of this country, without benefiting its manufactures.

No. XV.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman, (marked G.)

S I R,

I HAVE this day received a letter from Mr. Dunlop, as Chairman of the Manufacturers of Glasgow, and I lose no time in transmitting to you a copy; when the deputation arrives, I shall see them, and communicate to you the result of the conversation.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Whitehall,
22d March, 1793.

Your most obedient humble servant,

HENRY DUNDAS.

Francis Baring, Esq.

No. XVI.

Letter to Mr. Dundas, from Mr. John Dunlop, Chairman to the Manufacturers of Glasgow.

S I R,

AT a general meeting of the cotton manufacturers, &c. of this city, which was held some time ago, they entered into resolutions expressive of their sentiments relative to the renewal of the East-India Company's charter, and at a subsequent meeting, a Committee

mittee was appointed with general instructions how to act for the interest of all concerned. As the Chairman of that Committee, I have now the honour of addressing you.

I can safely assure you, that it is far distant from the intentions of the manufacturers at this crisis, wantonly to throw any obstacle in the way of what government may deem necessary and salutary arrangements, and although their expectations are not sanguine with regard to the advantages to be derived by the country from a trade to India regulated by an exclusive Charter, yet they are willing to wave all opposition to that measure, provided the following propositions be attended to in forming the new Charter, viz.

First. That the term of the Charter shall be considerably short of twenty years.

Second. That the East-India Company shall not import for home sale any piece goods excepting plain muslins exceeding 10s. per square yard, and muslins ornamented by the loom or needle, exceeding 20s. per square yard.

Third. That the duties upon piece goods imported by the East-India Company, shall remain as at present, but upon exportation only eight per cent. shall be drawn back.

Fourth. That British merchants shall have a right to export manufactures, and import raw materials (which shall be defined) in vessels of their own, to and from any part of the world which may be included in the exclusive trade of the East-India Company by their new Charter; but when such merchants shall resort to the territories of the East-India Company, then, they shall be liable to the duties payable by foreign nations. That this trade shall be confined to the port of London, and the ships employed in it, shall load and discharge their cargoes at no other wharfs than those of the East-India Company.

Fifth. That stipulations shall be made in the Charter to prevent as much as possible, the exportation, and the use of cotton machinery in India, which has been invented and used in this country.

Sixth. That the line of exclusive trade shall be drawn considerably to the eastward and northward of the Cape of Good Hope.

These are the outlines of the Manufacturers propositions, but if they are not listened to, it is necessary to state, that they seem disposed to combat the renewal of the Charter in so far as it relates to the commerce, although I must again repeat, they will consider it as extremely unfortunate to be obliged to oppose measures which may

have the sanction of Government, at a time when the support of every good subject is so eminently necessary.

I am authorised to say further, that if these propositions be not thought admissible at present, the Manufacturers are willing that the present Charter should be renewed during the continuance of the war with France, and for two years after a peace shall be concluded, provided, the East India Company shall accede to the second, fifth, and sixth propositions, at the same time satisfying Government with regard to revenue.

I hope you will admit the propriety of the first proposition. For when commerce and manufactures are extending and improving, a term of twenty years, for the duration of an exclusive charter, embracing trade and territory (the expediency of which, either in theory or practice, is at least doubtful) seems by far too long a period.

Upon the second proposition, it is unnecessary to enlarge, as so much was said upon that subject, on a former occasion, and as the East-India Company, if I may be allowed to judge by the tenor of the Report of the Select Committee, dated the first of last month, are not unwilling to make that concession.

The third Proposition would add to the public revenue, and would serve to protect the home manufacture at foreign markets.

The fourth Proposition the manufacturers bring forward owing to the urgent necessity for raw materials, and under the full conviction, that the plan proposed of individuals or private companies exporting and importing merchandize in the Company's ships would be entirely nugatory. For a trade so shackled by means of ships, factors, warehouses, &c. at home and abroad belonging to a Company, whose interests may not perhaps always be in consonance with those of private adventurers, would be a source of eternal heart-burning and complaint, sometimes proceeding from real causes, and sometimes from unfounded jealousy or inevitable disappointment.

To the Fifth proposition the manufacturers think they have a strong claim. By their labour, ingenuity, and money, the art of preparing and spinning cotton wool, has been introduced, and brought to a high degree of perfection; it seems therefore but reasonable that they should endeavour to secure to themselves and their country the benefit of those improvements, otherwise much distress might be the consequence.

To the Sixth proposition it is hoped there can be no objection as the manufacturers do not wish to extend the limits of the free trade
so

so far as to injure the East India Company, but merely to give the country at large a chance of extending their trade to certain parts of the world, to which the East India Company have not hitherto directed their attention.

With regard to the alternative of renewing the present Charter till two years after a peace, upon the East India Company agreeing to the second, fifth, and sixth propositions, and satisfying Government as to public revenue, I shall only remark that the war may put this country on a new footing, I sincerely hope a much better footing, as to foreign territory, and to trade in general. The success of the embassy to China will then be completely known, and besides, it seems a hardship upon the manufacturers, to have arrangements pressed upon them, which they cannot approve, and which are meant to endure for so long a period, at a time when they are not only unwilling to agitate any popular question, but are anxious to give their utmost aid and support to the measures of Government.

I have written thus far by the express desire of the Committee, and I have now to apologize to you, for having trespassed so long upon your time in stating propositions and discussing a subject to which I freely confess my information and abilities are very inadequate.

The manufacturing interest, have in my opinion much to expect from your openness and candour, and trust you will see the necessity of informing them, when the business is to be before the House of Commons that they may have an opportunity of bringing forward their propositions in form.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

S I R,

Your most obedient, and most humble Servant
Glasgow, 19 March,

1793. (Signed) JOHN DUNLOP,

The Right Honourable Henry Dundas.

P. S. Since writing the above, I have seen your very attentive letter to Mr. Monteith, who will own receipt of it, in his own name.

No. XVII.

*Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman, (marked H) respecting the
Clandestine Trade from India to Europe.*

S I R,

I HAVE had so many opportunities of talking at large with you and the other Gentlemen of the Committee, upon the subject of clandestine trade from India to Europe, that it would be a consumption of your time as well as my own, to go over the subject again. I am more and more convinced, both upon national grounds, and upon a consideration of what is due by the East-India Company to their own credit and interest, that very considerable sacrifices ought to be made by them, for the purpose of laying a foundation to put all the imports which now come from India clandestinely, in a train of being brought into a mode of legitimate trade. I send you enclosed the suggestions which have occurred to Mr. Pitt and me for this purpose. I trust you will soon be satisfied by experience, that the adoption of them is no ways prejudicial to your interests; but if we have not been fortunate enough to convince you in that respect, and that you still consider these concessions as sacrificing some part of your commercial interests, we are at least sanguine in our expectations, that in compliance with our opinions, you will not conceive the sacrifices we call upon you to make, are of such moment as to justify you in refusing to make the experiment.

I have the honour to be,

S I R,

Whitehall,
22d March, 1793.

Your most obedient humble servant,

HENRY DUNDAS.

No. XVIII.

*A Paper containing Suggestions on the Subject of the Clandestine Trade from
India to Europe, enclosed in the above Letter.*

THAT all persons residing in India, under the protection of the East-India Company, shall be allowed to act on agency, for any persons who may please to appoint them; the persons so acting, to be appointed under covenants with the East-India Company, and liable to the controul of the Government in India.

That

That all persons resident in India, shall be allowed to send home, in the Company's ships, such goods as they please, paying a freight for the same, not exceeding £.15 per ton, or such further sum, as with the freight paid on the goods exported to India shall amount in the whole to £.20 per ton, to and from India in time of peace.

That the charges made by the Company on the sales of goods shipped from India, by individuals, shall not exceed £.3 per cent.

That His Majesty's subjects in Great Britain and Ireland, shall be permitted to export all kinds of goods to India, with the exception of military stores, of certain bulky articles, of marine stores, viz. masts and spars, cordage, anchors, pitch and tar, and of copper, the freight for such exports to be at the rate of £.5 per ton in time of peace.

That it shall be lawful for the servants of the Company to recover their property in any foreign country, in the same manner as the rest of His Majesty's subjects are, or may be entitled to do.

No. XIX.

Minute of the Committee of Correspondence, dated 25th March, 1793, on the foregoing Papers.

At a Committee of Correspondence the 25th March, 1793.

THE Chairman submitted to the Committee, the following draft of a report, a copy of which he transmitted to the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, yesterday at noon, acquainting him that it was the intention of the Chairman to offer such a report to the consideration of the Committee on this day.

Report of the Committee of Correspondence, dated 25th March, 1793, on the foregoing Papers.

At a Committee of Correspondence the 25th March, 1793.

THE Committee will proceed to offer such Observations, as occur to them, on the Papers now laid before them by the Chairman, viz.

<p>A. Letter from Mr. Dundas, on the subject of the Company's ships.</p>	}	<p>As it is not intended to introduce any Parliamentary regulation on this subject at present, it becomes unnecessary for the Committee to offer any observations thereon.</p>
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As

B.
Correspondence with the
delegates from the
Country of Cornwall.

As this business is not matured, the Committee will wave the discussion, until they are enabled, by means of further communications from Mr. Dundas, to take the whole of the subject into their consideration.

C.
Application from the de-
legates of the City of
Exeter.

This subject relates altogether to the detail of the Company's commercial concerns which they never can consent to place under any regulations or controul whatsoever. The Committee at the same time observe, with pleasure so decided a proof of the success of those endeavours which have been constantly exerted to promote and extend the exportation of the manufactures of this country.

D.
Southern Whale Fishery.

The Chairman informed the Committee, that the letter which he wrote to Mr. Dundas, was in consequence of his having consulted with the persons alluded to. The Committee have nothing further to add on this subject, except to transmit a copy of the covenants, entered into by the parties, on licences being granted to them by the Company.

E. F. and G.
Being memorials and con-
ferences with the Re-
presentatives of Man-
chester and Glasgow.

Although the objects contended for by the parties are different, yet their real interest must be the same, and will probably be considered as such by the Legislature, therefore the Committee propose to offer such observations as occur to them in the aggregate. At the same time they will not touch upon some points which are not considered as relevant to the subject, or at least are of a description upon which the manufacturers will not be permitted to decide.

The

The ideas suggested by the manufacturers of Glasgow, to regulate prices and duties will be discussed with the propositions from the members of the county, and the more numerous body of the delegates from Manchester. The same may be said with regard to the raw materials, and with respect to other subjects touched upon by the manufacturers of Glasgow, there is no occasion for the Committee to return any answer.

The proposition from Messrs. Greg and Frodsham relative to freight will be replied to under the head of clandestine trade hereafter. But the Committee apprehend, that it is not the intention of Mr. Dundas to authorize in a legal manner, any commerce whatsoever from Great-Britain or Europe to China direct or indirect.

The Committee most readily admit, that the propositions made by the Members of the county, and the more numerous body of the delegates from Manchester, are fair objects of contention for any description of manufacturers, and particularly for the interest of those whom they represent.

It is unnecessary for the Committee to urge the great importance to the Company of being admitted to a participation of the home consumption for India Piece Goods, under any reasonable restrictions, as the subject has been frequently discussed by his Majesty's Ministers; being applicable to other articles as well as those of India. But if the manufacturers of cotton shall persist in their request to have the exclusive supply of the whole of the British consumption for their articles, the Committee will recommend to the Court of Directors, and to their Constituents, to yield such a request, provided the Company shall be placed in other respects upon an equal footing with private and clandestine traders, and foreign nations, as will be noticed hereafter.

The answers which Mr. Dundas has returned to the propositions for the importation of raw materials, and also relative to a limitation of the sales of the Company, concur entirely with the sentiments which the Committee have always entertained and therefore require no further observation on the subject.

The opinion which Mr. Dundas entertains about the rate of freight outward and homeward from India, has been replied to, in a letter from the Chairman, dated the 21st instant, when the Committee first suggested a rate of freight, which, in their opinion, was reasonable and beneficial to individuals; they had been informed that the freight from Ostend to India was £ 10. and from India to Ostend £ 15.

H.
The Clandestine Trade.

The offer which the Company made was lower, and at £22. per ton, attended with a loss to themselves. The proposal of Mr. Dundas, not only reduces the total to £20. but it is divided in such a manner, as to be attended with the most serious and alarming consequences to the Company.

If the price outward is no more than £5. whilst £15. is left to be earned homeward, it is evident that private traders will accept of the former, but they will have an option in India with respect to the latter, and on some occasions may obtain it cheaper. At all events it must prove a most serious loss to the Company, if they cannot rely in a great degree upon employing their ships homeward.

No reason occurs to this Committee for reducing the charges and profit on private trade from 7 to 3 per cent. It is allowed on all hands that the Company ought to reap some profit, as their sales must be curtailed, in proportion as those of private traders shall be increased. And it will cost private traders near 3 per cent. to pass through any other channel than that of the Company.

If Mr. Dundas shall be of opinion that the Company must furnish ships at the aggregate freight of £20. their profit and charges on private trade ought not to be reduced below 5 per cent. And if Mr. Dundas shall be of opinion that the freight ought to be divided at the rate of £5 per ton outward, and £15 per ton homeward, the Committee are decidedly of opinion, that the Company will be subject to very considerable loss.

The Committee are aware, that the concessions which the Company have agreed to make to private traders, may operate to reduce the Company's sales in a considerable degree; whilst the loss which must arise, in every event upon the freight, and the reduction of the present rate of 7 per cent. for profit and charges on private trade, may shake the confidence which in their opinion is otherwise due to the estimate of the surplus arising from the whole of the Company's affairs. If therefore Mr. Dundas shall continue in the opinion which he entertains on those subjects, the Committee think it will be necessary to review and combine the whole of the situation of the Company, under the regulations proposed, as they will vary considerably from those principles upon which the estimate alluded to has been formed.

If the object for encouraging private trade, is for the purpose of suppressing clandestine practices, the freight out and home, should be equally divided, as it will furnish means in some degree to carry

on

on those practices, if the freight from India shall remain at £15.

In the answer which the Committee have proposed to the Manufacturers of cotton, they recommend to the Court to abandon the supply of the home market if the manufacturers shall persist in their request. It is however upon a supposition that all Indian Piece Goods should be prohibited and sold as such, free of all duty, for if there shall remain the slightest duty, the clandestine trader, and foreigners will be on a better footing than the Company, as they can import directly from India free of all duty, and avoid those charges which must at all events arise from the circuitous route through London; by which means the clandestine trade will be promoted. London cannot be rendered the Depôt for Europe, whilst the realizing of the returns from India and the liquidation of the debts, and current affairs of the Company will be rendered precarious.

The Committee do not reply to that part of Mr. Dundas's proposition which relates to persons acting as agents, &c. as that subject will be fully discussed in the answer to the Memorial from the clandestine traders.

(Signed)

FRANCIS BARING,
JOHN SMITH BURGESS,
JOHN HUNTER,
JOHN TOWNSON,
JOHN MANSHIP,
WILLIAM BENSLEY,
THOMAS CHEAP,
JOHN ROBERTS.

No. XX.

Continuation of the Report of the Committee of Correspondence of the 25th March, 1793.

THE Chairman then proceeded to inform the Committee, that he had prepared the draft of an answer to the Memorial, from gentlemen who subscribed themselves "A Committee appointed by several Mercantile Houses, acting as Agents for the East-Indies," a copy of

No. 3.

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which

which he had likewise transmitted to the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, acquainting him that he should submit the same to the consideration of the Committee on this day, being as follows :

This Memorial in respect to the object it aims at, appears to your Committee to be a very extraordinary production.

The Memorialists avow themselves to have set the laws of this country at defiance, and to have been agents in carrying on an illicit trade; although in the 7th paragraph of their reasons, in support of their Memorial, they very pathetically reprobate a disregard to the laws of this country, as a practice that has a degrading effect upon those who embark in it.

Its object at the same time, is to overturn a system of policy which was established by the wisdom of the Legislature in the last century, and by the same authority has been further enforced by various salutary laws, down to the present period; which laws, upon an examination, will be found to be congenial with all the laws of this country respecting her Colonial trade.

The drift of these laws, or of the Company acting under them, has not been, as the Memorialists suppose, to annihilate a foreign East-India trade, but to prevent its being carried on, or encouraged by British subjects with British capitals, aided by British maritime skill, and with the advantages which have been acquired by British industry and experience. For whilst a foreign East-India trade is confined in all its parts and operations to foreigners, it is not likely to be carried on to such an extent as to be injurious to this country; whilst on the contrary, some foreign East-India trade is useful to it.

Some persons may think that these laws have been made merely to protect a monopoly in favor of the Company, in prejudice to other British subjects; the contrary is the fact. The preamble of all the Acts of Parliament shew that the object they had in view, was the public benefit, which was thought to be best attainable through the medium of an Exclusive Company.

The Committee will now proceed to make their observations upon the Memorial, and the method in which they have determined to do this, is by stating the Memorial on one side, and their observations on the other.

The Memorial respecting Clandestine Trade, with the Committee's Remarks thereon.

MEMORIAL.

THE Revolution in Bengal which raised the English East-India Company to political and territorial power, produced also a great change in the commerce between India and Europe. A new description of people appeared in the conquered countries; the numerous European dependants and followers of the English Government established there. Their acquisitions created an immense trading capital, for never thinking of colonizing, those acquisitions were necessarily to be remitted to Europe. The India Company would not facilitate such remittance, but opposed it, the capital was therefore forced into the hands of other European nations, and a new branch of trade was furnished for foreign ports, so that the power and influence of the East-India Company under which the acquisitions were made, were thus, in effect, turned against them a consequence far more detrimental to the Company, and to this nation, than if the same amount of capital raised by foreigners themselves, had been employed in the same way. It is not easy to compute the loss which Great-Britain has sustained by this application of the property of its subjects, to swell the flow of Eastern commerce into the other maritime countries of Europe, but it will perhaps be no exaggeration to reckon it at ten millions sterling, since the assumption of the Dewannee.

REMARKS.

It cannot be called a trading capital, being invested solely for the purpose of remitting the fortunes of individuals to Europe, and terminated as those fortunes became realized in Europe.

The remittance of the fortunes of individuals to foreign ports was injurious to the Company; but the loss would have been infinitely greater if the investment had been made in India, and sold in Leadenhall Street for account of the Company.

The property which is constantly alluded to, was acquired, as well as remitted, in a clandestine manner; the first object of the parties therefore was concealment; and no temptation would have induced them to expose the knowledge of those transactions to the Court of Directors.

The loss of ten millions sterling, in a comparison between the two modes of remittance, is infinitely exaggerated; of which notice will be taken hereafter.

M E M O R I A L

The impolicy of permitting this diversion of British funds to the aggrandizement of foreigners by the positive loss of the nation was very early perceived, remonstrated against, acknowledged, and yet the evil continues to this day; nay, it has become, by adjuncts which time has produced, more aggravated. No rational apology can be offered for the first permission of such a system. If the managers of the Company thought that by restricting the means of remittance to Europe (had that been in their power) the spirit of acquisition would also be restricted, a little consideration of the human character might have shewn how weak such an expectation was, which looked for that from external checks, which only internal regulation and principle could produce, but under the notion of discouraging the increase of private wealth, an absolute sacrifice was made of the interest of the Company and the nation: Would it have been advantageous for the Company to have augmented its commerce from India, to have absorbed into its own channel all the streams that fertilized the other countries of Europe? The means were in their power, they were even pressed upon them, but they rejected them with obstinacy. They had only to receive into their Indian treasuries, the fortunes of individuals for bills upon Europe, they would thus have prevented the growth of the foreign commerce, have enlarged their own, and made London the general mart of Europe for the productions of all the countries under their controul. However

R E M A R K S

ever passions or prejudices might have misled men when this subject first came into question, the fatal consequences of the decision which passed upon it cannot now be too loudly lamented. Those consequences are not confined to all the losses which have been already sustained. The present extensive system of illicit traffic carried on by the subjects of Great Britain, tends to enter into a discussion of the principle which the Memorialists allude to, namely, that because the existing laws have not been found sufficient to prevent illegal practices, for that reason, the clandestine trade should be legalized in future. Their object will be confined to shew that the facts stated by the Memorialists are unfounded; that the expectation held out by them of advantage to the Company and to the Public, cannot be realized; and that the remedy which they propose, in the extent they have stated, will be injurious to all but the agents concerned in this traffic.

It was in the power of the Company to have consented to their ruin, but if it is meant that by suffering individuals to realize their fortunes through the medium of the Company's commerce, ten millions sterling would have been saved to Great Britain, whilst the Company would have benefitted; the allegation is totally without foundation.

So far as individuals being exempted from failures, is true; as their credulity, and in many instances their desire

MEMORIALS.

ever passions or prejudices might have misled men, when this subject first came into question, the fatal consequences of the decision which passed upon it, cannot now but be seen and lamented.

Those consequences are not confined to all the losses which have been already sustained. The present extensive system of illicit traffic carried on by the subjects of Great-Britain between India and Europe, is to be ranked among them; had a remittance of the fortunes of individuals been granted through the channel of the Company, foreigners would never have been resorted to.

That resource first engaged British subjects abroad in trading speculations from India; they found foreigners too often deficient in honor, their own countrymen at home offered their services; persons, not originally connected with India embarked in this trade, which from being at first directed to the remittance of fortunes to Europe, was extended at length to adventurers from that country to India; and thus a regular system of clandestine commerce from foreign ports, and under foreign colours, in direct violation of the Company's charter and of the national law was established, and is still continued.

So far as individuals being exempted from duties is true; as their creditors and in many instances their de-

REMARKS.

fire to obtain the highest rate of exchange, induced them to place a confidence in persons unworthy of credit. But this must form a small part of ten millions sterling, the rest must depend upon the rate of exchange, which they realized through the medium of foreigners, when compared with the rate which they may have expected from the Company. The current rate of exchange at that time was 2s. 3d. and at this moment there are no remittances in Calcutta, where the Government are disposed to draw at 1s. 11d. the current rupee. It is therefore reasonable to suppose, that the very few individuals who were not obliged to conceal their operations, would not have accepted a less rate of exchange than 2s.

The money arising from those bills must have been invested in goods, and as the Company at times have lost very considerably by their investment, and that on some occasions, the rupee did not produce 1s. 3d. it is reasonable to suppose the addition to their usual sales, by the goods purchased in consequence of the measure proposed, would have reduced the produce of the rupee, on an average, to less than 1s. 6d.

No correct estimate can be formed on the subject, but if the clandestine traders have realized 1s. 6d. the rupee, suffering a loss of ten millions sterling, the sales for their account must have amounted to forty millions.

In the year 1770 the Governments in India were induced to adopt the plan suggested by the Memorialists, and

MEMORIAL.

It is of the highest importance that this great concern should once for all be taken into serious consideration, and that more especially on occasion of the renewal of the Company's Charter, some decisive and effectual line should be adopted, respecting it, various prohibitions have been enacted against the commerce and connection of British subjects in India, with the foreign ports and subjects of Europe, the Legislature has interposed with the denunciation of penalties and forfeitures, but the effect of all has been to perfect the art by which the laws are evaded, to place the scrupulous upon unequal terms, and to render the evil more desperate; it is not only known that those laws are inefficient, but that Government is so sensible of it as to make no effort to enforce them; a situation which tends to add disrespect and discredit to the other injuries suffered by the nation,

REMARKS.

and drew bills upon the Company for £1,420,421, but although those bills were drawn at one, two, and three years sight, the Company were so much distressed by the operation, that they were compelled to apply to the Public for relief, and even assisted by a loan on the occasion, with an express condition that the drafts from India should thenceforward be limited to £300,000 per annum.

How far therefore the measure proposed was practicable in any event, is submitted. But why the Company should have charged themselves with a loss of ten millions sterling, merely for the relief of individuals who acquired and remitted their fortunes in a clandestine manner, must be explained.

It is plain that the Company cannot now draw into their treasury all the capital of British subjects in India, nor establish a trade which time and a concurrence of circumstances have consolidated, yet it is still practicable to bring that trade to this country, it is still practicable to make London the great emporium of Europe for Indian commodities, to make the Company the channel of their introduction, and to give them a beneficial share in the profit of this trade, though not to continue

MEMORIAL.

From ample experience may be pronounced that no measures of restraint and coercion will be available in this case; whilst the spring is fed nothing can extinguish the stream.

It is not now in the power of the Company to return to the policy which would have averted all those evils, or at least by returning to it, to remove them. The Company have made the trial, but their first measures had created a trade unthought of before, and though they have found in India many who possessing their bonds were willing to take bills upon Europe for them, yet the trade once created has not ceased. Its original source, the acquisitions of Europeans in India, remains; foreigners have not only tasted the sweets of a trade founded in remittance, but at length European capitals are engaged, and this trade rises over all the obstructions opposed to it.

It is plain therefore that the question can no longer be about annihilating it, but about the best modification of which it is susceptible.

Although the Company cannot now draw into their treasury all the capitals of British subjects in India, nor extinguish a trade which time and a concurrence of circumstances have consolidated, yet it is still practicable to bring that trade to this country, it is still practicable to make London the great emporium of Europe for Indian commodities, to make the Company the channel of their introduction, and to give them a beneficial share in the profit of this trade, though not to constitute

REMARKS.

The commerce between India and the Continent of Europe, is different at present from what it has been; and chiefly consists in bringing from India the produce and manufacture for the consumption of the Continent, and which it has been deemed expedient to encourage.

The object of the present arrangement is to extend the trade to and from India, through the medium of the Company, by every possible means: to make London the great emporium for Indian commodities; but not to annihilate the trade which foreigners may carry on bona fide for their own account.

Ample

M E M O R I A L.

stitute the Company as it might once have been the sole trader.

In the proposals respecting a new Charter, provision is made (with great propriety doubtless) for the privilege of extending the exportation of British manufactures to India, and of bringing returns for them. But for bringing home the property of British subjects in India, for that interest which has been described as growing from our acquired dominion there, no adequate provision has hitherto been proposed. And may it not be said that there is also another description of persons who have not yet been distinctly attended to, in any arrangement. Were the subjects of the Nabob of Bengal, and of the other Princes of India whose power had been transferred to us, were those subjects, whether Mahomedans, Armenians, Parzees or Gentoos, forbidden by their native sovereigns to carry on any commerce with Europe? Have we acquired by succeeding to the sovereignty over them, the right of abridging their liberty in this particular? And if we may prohibit Indian merchants from trading directly with this country, can we interdict all commercial dealings between them, and the other kingdoms of Europe? Certainly not, without a violent infringement of their former rights; neither does the Act of Parliament seem to comprehend the native subjects of our Indian Territories, but if we were to exercise such an authority over those subjects, would it not at least be in their power to join in with the illicit practices of the natives

R E M A R K S.

Ample provision is proposed to be made for this purpose, by appropriating the sum of £ 500,000 annually towards liquidating the debts in India, and which is sufficient for the purpose of remitting home the moderate fortunes which have been acquired of late years.

With regard to the natives of India, their interests will also be secured under the present arrangement.

Such

M E M O R I A L.

tives of this country? As the acquaintance between Europeans and Asiatics encreases, we may expect to see them unite more especially in the affairs of commerce which approximate the most dissimilar races of men to each other, and the consequences that would result from the accession of native Indian merchants and their capitals to a combination already prejudicial to the Company and to Great Britain, may deserve very serious consideration, may dispose us more readily to recognize rights, which though dormant were real, and to study to render any possible exercise of such rights, as well as the unavoidable operation of the British capital created in India, or thrown into the private European trade of that country subversive to the advantage of this against the evils therefore produced by those causes, the evils of an illicit trade which appears to be encreasing, it is high time that a remedy should be provided.

The only remedy that appears practicable in this case, has been already adverted to, and shall now be more distinctly proposed.

It is, "To attract by proper measures to this country, the traffic at present carried on by British subjects, between India and the foreign parts of Europe.

In a general view, it can be no question, whether the encrease of our commerce, and especially of our carrying trade, would be beneficial to the nation; only particular interests therefore, or erroneous opinions can militate

R E M A R K S.

Such measures are decidedly in contemplation, and the whole arrangement is founded upon those principles. But the object of the memorialists is to enable them, in a legal manner, to counteract those principles.

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MEMORIAL.

tate against such a proposal. The exclusive privilege of the India Company may seem directly to stand in its way, whence those who think, in the narrow spirit of rigid monopoly, might oppose it. And certainly the enemies of that monopoly have an argument against it, at present not easily answered; that it forces a large share of the advantages of the Indian trade into foreign hands, and what is privately returned of it, is retained at the expence of trampling on existing laws, and at the hazard of manifold penalties. What it cannot extinguish in a word, and what this country would command, it still alienates from it. The interest also of those who carry on the clandestine trade, may seem, as matters now stand, not to coalesce with the proposal; though nothing can be so desirable to them, as that the causes which drive them into an irregular and alien course, should be removed. But if it were shewn that London could be rendered to the adventurers in this traffic, the most eligible port; that moreover, the traffic could be conducted through the channel of the Company, and that instead of placing their monopoly on any worse footing, than it at present stands, a considerable addition could be made to the profits of their commerce, every shadow of objection to the proposal would be dispelled. It is presumed, nay confidently believed, that all these objects combined are attainable, and the following arguments are offered in support of this opinion:

First.

M E M O R I A L.

First. On the part of the traders, the high freight and duties charged by the Company are the great obstacles on the part of the Company, the apparent sacrifice which they would make of their privilege. But let it always be remembered, as has been already stated, that they cannot by any exercise of their privilege, annihilate this trade, they can only prevent it from coming into Great Britain, and the most active prejudicial rivalry, which the trade can raise against their monopoly, is in foreign ports; at home, it would attract more buyers to their sales, and by the great increase of private importations, would enable them so to lower their aggregate charge of freight and duty, as to remove the objections of the traders, and yet on the whole, by that increased importation, add largely to their own profits.

These are the fundamental arguments on which this question may be allowed to turn; though there are others of great weight which illustrate and fortify the point contended for; if these are improved, they must establish that point; and though all the evidences which might be adduced in support of them, would swell this Memorial to an inconvenient size, what shall be added under this, and the following heads, will, it is hoped, be found sufficiently satisfactory. The clandestine trade, in English property, carried on under foreign flags in the last year, whose accounts are yet completed; namely, 1791, is ascertained by a laborious and accurate research,

R E M A R K S.

An offer has been already made of freight, at a rate lower than what it will cost the Company, and cheaper than what individuals must pay at ~~Offend.~~

It is not intended to annihilate the foreign trade; and His Majesty's Ministers are decidedly of that opinion.

It is intended to lower the duty to the Company, and the charges of merchandize for landing, housing, warehouse-room, &c. &c. from 7 per cent. to 5 per cent.

What follows under this argument requires particular attention, as it will evince the very slender foundation upon which the most positive facts were assumed.

After a laborious and accurate research, it is asserted, that in the year 1791, clandestine trade, in English property, was carried on to the amount of 10,255 tons, conformably to a list, which is annexed in the appendix.

Upon this document, the most substantial part of the argument depends; and yet it is scarcely possible to produce a paper which is *less accurate or more loose.*

MEMORIAL.

to have amounted to 10,255 tons, whereas, the aggregate tonnage of British importations, public and private, in the year 1791, was 7500 tons, of which that of privileged goods, shipped by merchants in India, was only 300 tons.

The disproportion between the private trade carried on at present by the Company's ships, and that carried on under foreign flags, thus appears at once to be immense. Let the articles of freight and charges on private goods by those ships be considered.

On privilege goods, the Company have by a late resolution determined, that where they have spare tonnage, the freight shall be £.15 per ton. They have however taken up no additional tonnage for this service, so that the resolution can have but a small operation. In adopting it, they calculated, and very justly, that the reduction in the rate of freight would be more than compensated by the per centage, on the increased importation of private goods. Again, of that import of 7 per cent. their own actual disbursement is perhaps only 1 per cent. the rest was therefore profit. Now upon the same principle that they have already sacrificed a part of that profit, in order to require a greater profit, they may sacrifice a further part of it, and obtain the same result, in higher degree. By diminishing the duty and charges to 3 per cent. they will so much encourage further importations, as to render that diminished rate of 3 per cent. more productive to them than the present rate is. Let

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REMARKS.

We have no particulars of their cargoes, whether the ships proceeded full or empty; for it is well known that even those who are really clandestine traders, often proceed with half cargoes. Six ships are supposed to have sailed from Lisbon, the destination of one is not mentioned, nor the time when any of them sailed. If the Memorialists had applied to the proper Coffee-houses, or merchants in London, they would have found printed lists from Lisbon, containing more ample materials than what they have procured after a laborious and accurate research. It is evident at the same time, that one ship was destined for Mazambique, and Goa, which is not a clandestine trade from Portugal, and impeaches any confidence whatsoever, which may be expected for the rest.

Of the ships from Ostend, two are mentioned "as expected to sail daily," and one of 760 tons was fitting out. But the most singular is a ship from Leghorn of 600 tons, without a name, destination, or any circumstances upon which an opinion can be founded. They add moreover, that "in this list are not included the Dutch Company's ships;" when it is well known that no clandestine trade is carried on through the Dutch, or their Company.

The

M E M O R I A L.

a. computation be made with the aid of the facts already stated.

Three hundred tons of privileged goods, valued on average of three years by the Company, at £.694 per ton, or £.208,000, will cost the Company in freight home, at £.15 per ton, £.4,500

And bring them for freight, at £.15 per ton, £.4,500

For duty and charges at 7 per cent. £.14,500

The surplus which is (excepting 1 per cent.) profit £.19,000

But suppose the privileged goods to be increased only to 5000 tons, instead of 10,255, then 5000 tons would cost the Company for freight home, at £.15 per ton, £.75,000

And bring them for freight, at £.15 per ton, £.75,000

For duty and charges reckoning the value of private trade, at £.694 per ton, making for 5000 tons £.3,470,000

3 per cent. would be £.104,100

Profit £.179,100

Company

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R E M A R K S.

The Memorialists further observe that the aggregate tonnage of British importations, in the year 1791, was 7500 tons.

It is true that the Foulis was lost that season, and the actual tonnage which arrived, was no more than 7950 tons; but the tonnage which sailed from hence in the season 1791-2, was 10193 tons, exclusive of China; and what has been agreed for during the present season 1792-3, amounts already to 17,199 tons, besides 1700 tons, which it is proposed to send to the Coast of Malabar; the whole exclusive of China. This will furnish more substantial and effectual means for crushing the clandestine trade, than those which the Memorialists have suggested.

The Company have not sacrificed a part of their profit, in order to acquire a greater, upon the principles alluded to. And the Memorialists are mistaken in supposing the expence of the Company to be no more than 1 per cent.

The whole of this computation is extraordinary

In the first place there is no reason to suppose, that the clandestine trade amounts to any thing like 5000 tons.

And why 5000 tons should be worth £.694 per ton, because 300 tons may have produced that sum (if that shall be a fact) remains to be proved.

The Court of Directors suppose that it will be necessary to sell £.2,314,000 annually, of goods from India, to enable

Company

M E M O R I A L.

Excepting warehouse charges, which would by no means rise upon such fine goods, in proportion to the increase of the amount. If the Company will make this further reduction, and furnish tonnage sufficient for the demands of individuals in India, which as yet is not done, notwithstanding the higher government duties on this bounty on piece goods, of which the private trade is supposed to be principally composed, the adventurers of British subjects will gradually be transferred from foreign channels to our own. The Company have already granted the principle here insisted upon, they have acted upon it, it remains only that they follow it, to that point to which reason and argument demonstrate that it ought to lead them, by affording the required facility to the introduction of private trade through their channel; that is, by furnishing tonnage, and lowering their charges, they move at once the chief obstacles on the part of individuals, and at the same time bring gain to themselves.

Second. But the advantage of this measure would by no means be confined to the Company, and the individuals who embarked in the private trade. The state and the nation at large would benefit still more.

The Ships employed in the Indian commerce, distinguishing it from that of China, would be increased one half, in time would perhaps be double.

The duties of Government, the freight, the commission, the incidental charges

R E M A R K S.

enable them to fulfill the expectations which have been raised from the present arrangements; and no doubt a further considerable amount may be sold. But it requires stronger proof than mere assertion, to believe that $\text{£}5,000,000$ can be added to the annual sales of the Company; or even that India can furnish such an addition, when it is combined with the very inadequate means, which Europe possesses of reimbursing to India more than the amount of her tribute; and the very limited extent of European articles, necessary for her consumption.

Another circumstance appears to have escaped the notice of the Memorialists, namely, that in proportion as the quantity of goods increases, the price or value will diminish.

The week following the arrival of the Ganges, the Company's raw silk was sold; but for above $\text{£}20,000$ less than what the silk would have sold for, if the ship had not arrived. And it has frequently happened, that the Company have sustained immense losses, in consequence of offering to sale, a very small quantity of goods, more than what the demand required.

It is evident therefore, that the calculation is unfounded and impracticable; but if it were otherwise, that it would operate to the destruction of the Company, in the reduction of the prices of their goods, which they must sell, to liquidate their current engagements.

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MEMORIAL.

charges, and part at least of the profit of this additional trade, would be so much clear gain to the kingdom.

The Company and the country would materially benefit in another way, the Manufacture of the East would be much improved in quality in consequence of their being purchased at leisure by Residents well versed in the trade instead of Supra Cargoes, unacquainted with the commerce, and who from necessity buy them up precipitately, and at advanced prices; London would become what it has been proposed that it should be, the mart of Europe for Indian goods; buyers would resort thither in greater numbers, the prices would be raised, for, as the importations into Europe would on the whole not be increased, there could be no reason on this ground to expect a fall of prices, on the contrary, a greater variety of assortments, a more numerous concourse of purchasers, and a larger accumulation of orders from different parts of Europe and America, all centering in one place, must tend to enhance the prices there.

Fourth. The export trade of Great Britain would be promoted by its becoming the general seat of the Indian commerce. This consequence would follow in a variety of ways. The certain result of greater imports from India, would be greater exports to it. Imports thence by individuals would prove one of the surest means of extending exports to the highest point that any vent for them could be found.

Again

REMARKS.

The reverse of the whole of this argument is the truth. If competition shall be excited in India to the extent the Memorialists have in contemplation, the quality of manufactures must be debased until a new race of men shall be created to supply the demand, as it is impossible to introduce other casts or descriptions of men than those at present employed.

The effect of an increased quantity beyond the real demand and consumption has been already described.

The export trade is fully provided for.

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MEMORIAL.

Again, merchants coming from abroad, to attend the Indian sales, would combine with their visits on that score : other speculations in the commodities of this country, which their personal inspection would give them an opportunity of selecting with superior advantage for the different markets. And lastly, the increased exports of Indian goods to the different Ports of Europe and America, would employ a proportionable increase of British tonnage.

Fifth. The British cotton manufactures, which some might hastily apprehend to be exposed to injury by the proposed change, would suffer no detriment; and, on the contrary, might in some respects be benefited by it. The high duties on Indian fabrics imported here, completely secures to the British manufactures the home market. Muslins pay 18 per cent. on the gross sales, which is in fact £. 18 on £. 82. The duties on coarser articles are still higher, many others are entirely prohibited, so that there is every reason to believe this country would serve merely as an entre-port for goods of these descriptions. But as to the consumption of the rest of Europe, and of America, whether the Indian importations which now come in the channel of clandestine trade, are brought to Great Britain, or to the Continent, the general effect will be precisely the same as it is at present. The wear of British manufactures will not be lessened, nor that of Indian fabrics increased. But, on the other hand, as foreign nations have done every

MEMORIAL.

every thing, even to the framing of laws to counteract our acts of parliament against illicit trade, and, in particular, laid heavier duties on British cotton goods to favour their own importations in the same species of goods from the East-Indies : so it is probable, that if the trade they enjoy in the Indian fabrics were brought here, they would put the manufactures of Great Britain and of India on an equal footing.

Sixth. There is a painful necessity for adding further, that as there is reason to believe the illicit traffic to foreign ports does not rest there, but is even extended from them to this kingdom, to the great loss of Government, by the fraudulent abuse of the revenue laws, both concerning duties and drawbacks; so this pernicious and scandalous evil would be suppressed, and the revenue receive a double accession from a positive increase of avowed Indian imports, and the extinction of smuggling in them; ends for which, if it were needful, it would be to the obvious benefit of the nation, even to make some sacrifice in the present high rates of duty on importation, a sacrifice which, like that proposed to be made by the Company, would be more than compensated by the augmentation that would follow in the imports from India.

Seventh. There is another consideration of very serious importance, which cannot but be urged on this occasion. It has been the distinguished honour of the present Indian administration in this country, seconded by the virtuous exertions

REMARKS.

The Memorialists are mistaken with regard to Indian articles, as the frauds upon the revenue are to a very limited extent, cannot be prevented, and do not apply to the present subject.

MEMORIAL.

exertions of the Governor-general, whom it selected, to restore a principle of rectitude in the service and the establishments of the Company in India. The change which has taken place in that respect, those who have had an opportunity of seeing and appreciating, speak of in the highest terms. But one baneful practice remains, which may in time prove an infectious leaven. The laws of this country are openly disregarded there, in the business of illicit commerce. It is true the things forbidden, are not in themselves immoral, but the laws constitute a positive duty. Nothing can be of greater consequence to the good government of those distant dependencies, than to teach them a reverence for the laws of the mother country. Nothing is likely to pervert truth more, than to see public regulations slighted and contemned. But this is at present unavoidable; a young man, on his first entrance on that scene, finds the practice too common, and such as neither is nor can be controuled; this is an example that may loosen his principles, and tempt him to deviations in other ways; it is a practice that has a degrading effect also upon those who embark in it, and its general influence, in lessening, particularly, the respect which ought always to be maintained for the Legislature and Government of the country has been already noticed, so that if nothing else were done, undoubtedly the state of this matter should be revised and corrected; but the best cure would be to obviate the occasion for restrictive laws.

Indeed

MEMORIAL.

Indeed there is a particular and cogent argument for doing so, independent of all that has been mentioned. By the Regulation Act of 1781, British subjects are forbidden to act as agents in India for foreigners. The sole conceivable motive for such a restriction is, that the power and influence of the English may not be used to aid foreign competitors in rivaling the Company in Europe; but this idea proceeds upon two suppositions both totally erroneous; the first, that foreigners could not procure the commodities they want in India, without the assistance of the English; and the second, that individuals under the British Government could be, in fact, prevented from dealing with the subjects of other nations in that country. Experience has demonstrated the entire fallacy of both expectations, though it is true that the English, from their superior knowledge and residence, can secure them better. The principle of the proposed restriction is as erroneous as the suppositions were, on which it was founded. In as far as British subjects are the agents in the trade of India, they keep, as it were, the key of that trade in their own hands, and the profits of the agency are so much clear gain to the country, that it is both a controlling and an extensive power in the commerce of foreigners with India is thus vested in the subjects of Great Britain, but the act without securing, in the least, the objects for which it was framed, goes to deprive them of both these material advantages. Now this is a matter that is mere policy, independent of any moral principle.

MEMORIAL.

Indeed there is a particular and cogent argument for doing so, independent of all that has been mentioned. By the Regulation Act of 1781, British subjects are forbidden to act as agents in India for foreigners. The sole conceivable motive for such a restriction is, that the power and influence of the English may not be used to aid foreigners in rivaling the Company in Europe; but this idea proceeds upon two suppositions both totally erroneous; the first, that foreigners could not procure the commodities they want in India, without the assistance of the English; and the second, that individuals under the British Government could be, in fact, prevented from dealing with the subjects of other nations in that country, experience has demonstrated the entire fallacy of such expectations, though it is true that the English, from their character, knowledge and residence, can serve them better. The principle of the designed restriction is as erroneous as the suppositions were, on which it was founded. In as far as British subjects are the agents in the trade of India, they keep, as it were, the key of that trade in their own hands, and the profits of agency are so much clear gain to this country; that is, both a controuling and an executive power in the commerce of foreigners with India is thus vested in the subjects of Great Britain; but the act without securing, in the least, the objects for which it was framed, goes to deprive them of both these material advantages. Now this is a matter that in mere policy, inde-

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of the Governor-General, whom it selected, to restore a principle of rectitude in the service and the establishments of the Company in India. The change which has taken place in that respect, those who have had an opportunity of seeing and appreciating, speak of in the highest terms. But one painful circumstance which may in time prove an infectious leaven. The laws of this country are openly disregarded there, in the business of illicit commerce. It is true the things forbidden, are not in themselves immoral, but the laws constitute a positive duty. Nothing can be of greater consequence to the good government of those distant dependencies, than to teach them a reverence for the laws of the mother country. Nothing is likely to prevent truth from being the basis of the regulations which are to be put in force. But this is an ancient maxim, and a young man, on his first entrance on that scene, finds the practice too common, and such an action is not easily controlled; there is an example that may look his practice, and tempt him to deviations in other ways; it is a practice that has a debilitating effect also upon those who embark in it, and its general influence is testimony, that, the respect which ought to be ways to be maintained for the laws of the Government of the country has been already so far that it is nothing else were done, undoubtedly the state of this matter should be revised and corrected; but the best cure would be to operate the occasion for restrictive laws.

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M E M O R I A L.

pendent of the evils which flow from it, ought to be regulated; nothing appears plainer than that British subjects, resident in India, should have the same privilege, which all other Europeans in that country have, from their respective governments, the privilege of taking commercial commissions from those that will employ them, the nature and consequences of such a proposition will be at once apparent to a discerning statesman, and therefore the following clause, in the impending act for a new Charter, is with confidence proposed.

- “ That it shall be lawful in future
- “ for British subjects and others, living
- “ under the protection of His Majesty,
- “ in India or elsewhere, to purchase
- “ goods from, or sell goods to the
- “ subjects of all nations, without ex-
- “ ception, or to act for them on
- “ agency.”

Upon the whole therefore, every interest, public and private, national and individual, concurs to recommend, and even to call for the measures which are here proposed.

The Court of Directors have long been sensible of the importance of the subjects which have been suggested, have been delivered, these reports which prove that the interest of the Public requires that the exclusive trade should be continued to the Company, remain unanswered, they have been approved by Ministers, and Mr. Dundas is decidedly of that opinion; and yet numerous concessions are proposed to be made to the manufacturers injurious to the Company. I say therefore that their interests are not to be further sacrificed to men, who have evaded or broken the existing laws, and whose object is to legislate which it is the desire and earnest endeavour of all parties to annihilate.

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The Committee have offered remarks upon some parts of the Memorial, for the purpose of proving, that the Memorialists are unfounded both in principles and facts. They will now beg leave to submit to Mr. Dundas, for the information of His Majesty's Ministers, some further observations in addition thereto.

Without entering into a discussion of the right of either party to the territorial revenues, &c. India may be considered as a colony, and consequently ought to be governed upon principles which have been constantly applied to possessions of a similar description.

The great object of the whole of the arrangement, is to suppress clandestine trade; to make London the depôt; and the British shipping the carriers for India.

If foreigners can trade upon equal terms without the expence of establishments; if they can be supplied by British subjects, and aided by British capitals, they will be better served than the Company, and the objects which are attempted to be obtained will be frustrated. For the Committee cannot avoid observing, that whilst the avowed object is to suppress clandestine trade, which is strenuously contended for on every other occasion, the clause which is proposed will operate to encourage and to extend foreign and clandestine trade, but cannot by any possible means bring that trade to Great Britain.

The measures which Government have always adopted to suppress clandestine trade, are not those of encouragement to the parties; duties may be lowered or annihilated; the fair trader may be furnished with the means of carrying on his trade with as much advantage as the smuggler; but cutters and cruizers are nevertheless employed, and penal laws still remain.

The Court of Directors have long been informed, that the great obstacle to the exclusive trade, was the separate interests and expectations of the manufacturers at home, reports upon the various and ruinous subjects which have been suggested, have been delivered; those reports which prove that the interest of the Public require that the exclusive trade should be continued to the Company, remain unanswered; they have been approved by Ministers, and Mr. Dundas is decidedly of that opinion; and yet numerous concessions are proposed to be made to the manufacturers injurious to the Company. They therefore trust that their interests are not to be further sacrificed to men, who have evaded or broken the existing laws, and whose object is to legalize that which it is the desire and earnest endeavour of all parties to annihilate.

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The Committee are persuaded, under the circumstances they have stated, that any permission to be extended to foreigners, or their trade, will be confined to India. That no person shall be permitted to act as an agent to foreigners, or others, who is not under contracts to the Company, and under the entire controul and authority of the governments in India. That no British agent shall be suffered to lend, on advance, money for the benefit of foreigners in trade; nor to trade themselves to any place whatsoever on this side the Cape of Good Hope, except to Great Britain. And finally, that such agents shall not be permitted to interfere at the avarungs in the purchase of goods.

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The Committee are persuaded, under the circumstances they have
 faced, that any permission to extend to foreigners, or their trade,
 that any permission shall be permitted to act as

No. XXII.

Appendix to the Memorial respecting *Slave Trade*, being the *Enclosure* men-
 tioned in the Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman, dated the 18th March,
 1793, contained in the Second printed Collection of Papers respecting the
 Negotiations.

LIST of SHIPS failed and sailing out for 1791, from Europe to India.

Port of Departure.	Ships Name.	Tonnage.	Total.	Destination.
Lisbon	Vascada Gama	450	—	Bengal
Ditto	Na Sa de Arribida	400	—	Ditto
Ditto	Bom Succello	500	—	Ditto
Ditto	Sa Sacramento	600	—	Madras & Bengal.
Ditto	Rachados Ayros	500	—	Mofambique and
Ditto	Marquis de Aryija	500	—	Malabar Coast.
Lisbon -			2,950	
Oftend, 22d January, 1791.	Princess Frederica	450	—	Bombay
Ditto	Minerva	290	—	Bengal
Ditto, 19th February	Princess Maria	400	—	Ditto
Ditto, 25th	Enterprise	280	—	Ditto
Ditto, 18th June	Henrietta	500	—	Ditto
Ditto, 17th July	Lydia	220	—	Ditto
Ditto, 31st August	Victorie	240	—	Ditto
Ditto, 29th October	Prudentia	275	—	Ditto
Ditto, 11th November	Flora	500	—	Ditto
Ditto, 12th	Aquila	700	—	Bombay
Expected to sail daily	Elizabeth	440	—	Bengal
Ditto ditto	Bellona	450	—	Ditto
Ditto, fitting out	The Old Glatton	760	—	Ditto
Oftend -			5,505	
Copenhagen, failed	Schemmelman		600	Coast and Bay
Norway, ditto	Prince of Hesse		600	Tranquebar.
Leghorn			600	
			10,255	Tons

N.B. The Ships Flora, Elizabeth, and Bellona which sailed from Ostend, belong to Copenhagen, but proceeded to Ostend to take in Goods or Freight from London, and are all full.

In this List are not included the Dutch Company's Ships, nor those failed from the different Ports of France.

DESTINATION of the above SHIPS.

To BOMBAY and MALABAR COAST.

To BOMBAY and MALABAR COAST.				Tons.	Total Tons.
Raynha de Ayros	-	-	-	500	
Marquis de Aryija	-	-	-	500	
Princess Frederica	-	-	-	450	
Aquila	-	-	-	700	

To Bombay. 2150

TO BENGAL.

Vasca de Gama	-	-	-	450
Arribida	-	-	-	400
Bonn Succello	-	-	-	500
Sacramento	-	-	-	600
Minerva	-	-	-	290
Princess Maria	-	-	-	400
Enterprize	-	-	-	280
Henrietta	-	-	-	500
Lyda	-	-	-	220
Victorie	-	-	-	240
Prudentia	-	-	-	275
Flora	-	-	-	500
Elizabeth	-	-	-	440
Bellona	-	-	-	450
The Old Glatton	-	-	-	760
Schemmelman	-	-	-	600
Ship from Leghorn	-	-	-	600

To Bengal. 7505

TO COROMANDEL COAST.

Prince of Hesse	-	-	600	Tons.
			<u>10255</u>	

No. XXIII.

Further Minute of the Committee of Correspondence, dated the 25th March,

1793.

THE Chairman then acquainted the Committee, that he had received this morning a letter from the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, dated the 24th instant, in answer to the communications which he had the honor of addressing to Mr. Dundas yesterday, a copy of which letter is as follows :

No. XXIV.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman, dated the 24th March, 1793.

S I R,

I HAVE this afternoon received your different packets at this place; I came here for two days to arrange my ideas on the whole of the India subject, before submitting it to Parliament on Tuesday next, but on an attentive perusal of what you have transmitted to me, I do not think it right for me to bring forward any thing as the measure of Government, till we are more at a point than we seem at present to be; I shall therefore move nothing at present in Parliament, but I shall transmit to you, without delay, the resolutions I meant to have submitted to the House of Commons, and I shall require of you to submit them to the opinion of a Court of Proprietors, that they may determine whether they wish me to proceed further on the idea of an exclusive Charter. I am not anxious about what their decision may be, being of opinion, that the grant of an exclusive commerce to India, is not very material to the interests either of the East-India Company or the Public. Wishing, however, to be perfectly explicit on the whole of this business, I think it right to observe, that in so far as respects the participation claimed in behalf of the Public, I do not consider it in any manner connected with the question of exclusive trade; for I am decidedly of opinion, that both the Proprietors of India stock and the Public, under a due administration of the territorial revenues of India, would be enabled to receive a participation equal to the amount of what I have ever suggested, although no exclusive Charter of trade existed.

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If there shall be occasion for the discussion, I have no desire to avoid it, but it would be premature till once it is finally ascertained by the opinions of the Proprietors, whether they think it for their interests to petition for an exclusive trade, under the restrictions which appear necessary for putting to the experiment the ideas which the merchants and manufacturers of Great Britain have been led to entertain on the subject of the Indian trade.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Wimbleton,
24th March 1793.

(Signed) HENRY DUNDAS.

No. XXV.

Letter from the Chairman to Mr. Dundas, dated the 25th March, 1793.

SIR,

CONFORMABLY to what I had the honour of mentioning to you, I have this day submitted to the Committee of Correspondence the whole of the papers, with the remarks and observations thereon, which were transmitted to you yesterday; together with the letter which you have done me the honour to write on the occasion.

The Committee have taken the whole of the papers, with the various subjects to which they apply, into their serious consideration; but as you acquaint me of your intention to transmit, without delay, the resolutions you meant to have submitted to the House of Commons, the Committee will suspend any decisive opinion relative to those papers, and consequently to your letter, until they have received a copy of the resolutions, which they trust it will be convenient to you to furnish previous to their meeting to-morrow at noon.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

East-India House,
25th March, 1793.

(Signed) F. BARING.

The Right Hon. Henry Dundas, &c. &c.